- (19)【発行国】日本国特許庁(JP)
- (12)【公報種別】公開特許公報(A)
- (11) 【公開番号】特開平11-136615
- (43) 【公開日】平成11年(1999) 5月21日
- (54) 【発明の名称】録画予約管理装置
- (51)【国際特許分類第6版】

H04N 5/7826

G11B 15/02 328

[FI]

HO4N 5/782 Z

G11B 15/02 328 S

【審查請求】未請求

【請求項の数】 22

【出願形態】OL

【全頁数】 13

- (21) 【出願番号】特願平9-301257
- (22) 【出願日】平成9年(1997) 10月31日
- (71) 【出願人】

【識別番号】00005821

【氏名又は名称】松下電器産業株式会社

【住所又は居所】大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地

(72)【発明者】

【氏名】大西 留美

【住所又は居所】大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器産業株式会社内

(72)【発明者】

【氏名】後藤 昌一

【住所又は居所】大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器産業株式会社内

(74) 【代理人】

【弁理士】

【氏名又は名称】松田 正道

(57)【要約】

【課題】従来の録画予約管理装置は、その録画予約管理装置本体に入力された予約情報と、VTRに直接予約された予約情報を一括管理していなかったという課題があった。

【解決手段】予約情報管理部が、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)または映像記憶部としてのVTRから番組予約情報を入力し(501)、入力した番組予約情報と、既に、予約情報記憶部に記憶されて

、いる番組予約情報とを比較し、それら2つの番組予約情報の番組が時間的に重複するか否かを判断する(502)。重複があった場合、その重複状況をユーザに表示し(503)、ユーザの指示に従って、予約情報管理部は、一方の番組予約情報を削除し(504~507)、他方の番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部に記憶させる(508)。重複がなかった場合、予約情報管理部は、入力した番組予約情報を、予約情報記憶部に記憶させる(508)。

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記双方の予約情報が重複する場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を活かさないように制御し、前記双方の予約情報が重複しない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置。

【請求項2】所定の予約情報を格納する予約用メモリを備え、前記比較手段は、前記録画予約管理装置本体に新たに入力された予約情報を前記予約用メモリに格納しないまま、先に入力され、前記予約用メモリに格納されている予約情報と比較し、前記制御手段は、前記新たに入力された予約情報が優先する場合、前記新たに入力された予約情報を、前記予約用メモリに格納するとともに、格納されていた予約情報を削除して、前記格納されていた予約情報が優先しないように制御し、前記新たに入力された予約情報が優先しない場合、前記予約用メモリに格納されていた予約情報はそのまま格納しておき、前記新たに入力された予約情報が優先しないように制御することを特徴とする請求項1記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項3】前記映像録画装置からの予約情報、および、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を格納する予約用メモリを備え、優先しない予約情報を前記予約用メモリから削除し、それが前記映像録画装置側の予約情報である場合、それも削除することを特徴とする請求項1記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項4】前記映像録画装置は複数であり、全ての前記映像録画装置および録画予約管理装置の録画予約が、特定の映像録画装置を選択しない場合、前記重複とは、録画予約管理装置の予約情報が、全ての前記映像録画装置の中の予約情報と重なる場合を意味することを特徴とする請求項1から3のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項5】前記映像録画装置は複数であり、全ての前記映像録画装置および録画予約管理装置の録画予約が、特定の映像録画装置を選択する場合、前記重複とは、録画予約管理装置の予約情報が、その選択した前記映像録画装置の予約情報と重なる場合を意味することを特徴とする請求項1から3のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項6】前記映像録画装置は複数であり、複数の前記映像録画装置のうちの特定の映像録画装置および録画予約管理装置の録画予約が、前記特定の映像録画装置を選択する場合、前記重複とは、録画予約管理装置の予約情報が、前記特定の映像録画装置の予約情報と重なる場合を意味することを特徴とする請求項1から3のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項7】前記映像録画装置は複数であり、録画予約管理装置の録画予約のみが特定の映像録画装

置を選択し、全ての前記映像録画装置の録画予約が特定の映像録画装置を選択しない場合、前記重複とは、録画予約管理装置が選択した映像録画装置の予約情報が、その映像録画装置の予約情報と重なり、かつ、その予約情報が他の全ての映像録画装置の予約情報と重なる場合を意味することを特徴とする請求項1から3のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項8】前記映像録画装置は複数であり、全ての前記映像録画装置の録画予約がそれぞれその録画予約の映像録画装置を選択し、録画予約管理装置の録画予約が特定の映像録画装置を選択しない場合、前記重複とは、録画予約管理装置の予約情報が、全ての前記映像録画装置の予約情報と重なる場合を意味することを特徴とする請求項1から3のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項9】前記映像録画装置に予約情報が設定された場合、前記録画予約管理装置本体は、自動的にその予約情報を移動させることを特徴とする請求項1記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項10】前記映像録画装置に予約情報が設定された場合、前記録画予約管理装置本体は、自動的にその予約情報を複写し、前記映像録画装置に設定された予約情報、または、複写した予約情報のいずれか一方を削除することを特徴とする請求項1記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項11】所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を廃棄または削除し、予約情報を活かすように制御し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置。

【請求項12】所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を、その予約情報と重複しない他の前記映像録画装置へ移し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置。

【請求項13】所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を、その予約情報と重複する他の前記映像録画装置へ移した後、前記非優先の予約

、情報とを比較して、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、一方の予約情報を選択し、その選択に基づいて、前記選択した予約情報を活かすように制御し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置。

【請求項14】2つの予約情報が重複した場合、それら2つの予約情報を表示する情報表示手段を備え、その情報表示手段を用いて、前記2つの予約情報のうちの一方を選択する指示を、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者から受け付けることを特徴とする請求項1から13のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項15】前記映像録画装置の電源のオンおよびオフを切り換える電源管理手段を備えたことを特徴とする請求項1から14のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項16】番組情報を入力する番組情報入力手段を備え、前記番組情報を前記予約情報に加味することを特徴とする請求項1から15のいずれかに記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項17】前記番組情報は、前記予約情報の番組の時間帯の変更の情報を有し、その時間帯の変更に応じて前記予約情報の内容を変更することを特徴とする請求項16記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項18】前記番組情報は、放送局からのテレビ信号の垂直帰線消去期間を利用して送信される情報であることを特徴とする請求項16または17記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項19】前記番組情報は、放送局からのFM多重放送を利用して送信される情報であることを特徴とする請求項16または17記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項20】前記番組情報は、放送局からの公衆回線を利用して送信される情報であることを特徴とする請求項16または17記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項21】前記番組情報は、あらかじめ番組情報を記憶している記憶媒体からの情報であることを特徴とする請求項16または17記載の録画予約管理装置。

【請求項22】前記番組情報は、ページャ基地局から送信される情報であることを特徴とする請求項16または17記載の録画予約管理装置。

詳細な説明

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、映像録画装置がテレビ放送局からのテレビ番組を録画予約によって録画するさいの予約情報を管理する録画予約管理装置に関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来より、VTRなどでは、見たい番組を録画するために、番組の開始時刻にユーザが録画操作を行なわなくても、タイマー予約をすることによって録画できるようになっている。タイマー予約は、録画したい番組の日時、チャンネル、開始時刻、終了時刻、録画モード等を設定し、VTRをタイマー予約モードにすることによって行なわれる。

【0003】ところで、VTRに直接予約する以外に、そのVTRに接続している録画予約管理装置にタイマー予約をし、その録画予約管理装置からの指示に基づいて、VTRに録画予約させることもできる。

【0004】このような従来の録画予約管理装置の構成を、その動作とともに<u>図7</u>を参照して説明する。<u>図7</u>は、従来の録画予約管理装置のブロック図である。

【0005】先ず、番組情報入力部701が、予約情報を予約情報管理部702に出力する。その予約情報は、予約情報管理部702に入力され、そして、予約情報記憶部703に記憶される。この時、入力された予約情報と、既に予約情報記憶部703に記憶されている予約情報とに時間的に重複がある場合、予約情報管理部703は、ユーザにそのことを通知し、ユーザの指示に従って、一方の予約情報を削除する。

【0006】その後、予約情報記憶部703に記憶された予約情報は、予約情報管理部702を介して、信号送信部705に出力され、信号送信部705が、VTRに予約録画させる旨の信号を生成してVTRへ出力し、VTRに予約録画させる。

【0007】なお、予約情報管理部702は、ユーザの指示に従って、予約情報表示部704に、予約情報記憶部703に記憶されている予約情報を表示させる。

【0008】また、録画予約管理装置に2台以上のVTRが接続されていて、予約情報記憶部703に入力された予約情報と、予約情報記憶部703に既に記憶されている予約情報とに時間的に重複がある場合、複数のVTRのいずれかが予約録画することが可能な状況にあれば、予約情報記憶部703は、適宜、複数のVTRのいずれかに、予約録画させるように予約情報を記憶する。

[0009]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述した従来の録画予約管理装置は、VTRに直接予約された予約情報を管理していない。録画予約管理装置は便利ではあるが、直接VTRへ録画予約することに慣れているユーザの中には、装置の立ち上げ作業や、立ち上げを待つ時間を面倒だと考え、直接VTRに予約をすることを選択する場合があると考えられる。加えて、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)などを用いて録画予約を行う場合、通常、番組情報は2週間単位で発表されるために、2週間より先の録画予約ができないという問題が生じる。1ヶ月分の録画予約が可能であるVTRもあるため、長期不在などの理由で2週間より先の録画予約を行いたい場合は、直接VTRに予約を行うことになる。

【0010】この場合、VTRに直接予約された予約情報と、録画予約管理装置に既に登録されている予約情報とが時間的に重複している場合、また、VTRに直接予約されている予約情報と、録画予約管理装置に新規に入力された予約情報が時間的に重複している場合、VTRは、特にユーザに通知することなく、録画開始時刻の早い方の録画予約情報を優先して録画を行うので、見たい番組を録画できないという問題が生じる。

【0011】また、録画予約管理装置に2台以上のVTRを接続している場合、一方のVTRを特定のジャンルの番組の録画専用に使用することが考えられる。この場合、特定のジャンルの番組を予約する度に、ユーザは、録画予約管理装置に、予約録画させるVTRの指定を行わなければならない。

【0012】さらに、ほとんどのVTRは、Standby電源が採用されており、常にVTR本体に電源が入っている状態であるので、電力をかなり使用することとなる。

【0013】本発明は、このような従来の録画予約管理装置は、その録画予約管理装置本体に入力された予約情報と、VTRに直接予約された予約情報を一括管理していなかったという課題を考慮し、録画予約管理装置本体に入力された予約情報と、VTRに直接予約された予約情報を一括管理する録画予約管理装置を提供することを目的とするものである。

【0014】また、本発明は、従来の録画予約管理装置は、特定のジャンルの番組を録画するVTR

、に、そのジャンルの番組を予約録画させる場合、その都度、ユーザからVTRの指定を受け付けなければならないという課題を考慮し、特定のジャンルの番組を録画するVTRに、そのジャンルの番組を予約録画させる場合、その都度、ユーザからの指示を受け付けることなく、特定のジャンルの番組を特定のVTRに、優先的に録画予約させる録画予約管理装置を提供することを目的とするものである。

【0015】さらに、本発明は、従来のVTRは常に電源が入っているという課題を考慮し、必要な時にだけVTRに電源を入れる録画予約管理装置を提供することを目的とするものである。

[0016]

【課題を解決するための手段】請求項1の本発明は、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記双方の予約情報が重複する場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を活かさないように制御し、前記双方の予約情報が重複しない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置である。

【0017】請求項11の本発明は、所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を廃棄または削除し、予約情報を活かすように制御し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置である。

【0018】請求項12の本発明は、所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を、その予約情報と重複しない他の前記映像録画装置へ移し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置である。

【0019】請求項13の本発明は、所定のジャンルの番組のみを録画するようになっている所定の映像録画装置を含む、録画部と録画予約部とを有する映像録画装置複数個の予約情報および、録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報を、それぞれ入力する入力手段と、双方の予約情報を比較する比較手段と、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報である場合、あらかじめ決められた

"ルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、優先する予約情報を決定し、その決定に基づいて、非優先の予約情報を、その予約情報と重複する他の前記映像録画装置へ移した後、前記非優先の予約情報とを比較して、あらかじめ決められたルール、または、前記録画予約管理装置本体の操作者の指示に従って、一方の予約情報を選択し、その選択に基づいて、前記選択した予約情報を活かすように制御し、前記入力手段が入力した、前記録画予約管理装置本体に対する予約情報が前記所定の映像録画装置に対して前記所定のジャンルの番組を録画させる予約情報でない場合、それら双方の予約情報を活かすように制御する制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする録画予約管理装置である。

[0020]

【発明の実施の形態】以下に、本発明の実施の形態を図面を参照して説明する。

- 【0021】(実施の形態1)本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の構成をその動作とともに述べる。
 - 【0022】図1に、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置のブロック図を示す。
- 【0023】本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置は、番組情報入力部101と、番組情報記憶部102と、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103と、表示制御部104と、予約情報管理部105と、予約情報管理部106から構成される。なお、予約情報管理部105は、図8に示すように、入力手段1051と、比較手段1052と、制御手段1053とを有している。また、図1の107は、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置と接続している映像記憶部である。
- 【0024】実施の形態1では、映像記憶部107が、VTRである場合を例にとって説明する。
- 【0025】ユーザは、TV放送局からの番組を映像記憶部107としてのVTRに録画予約させるさい、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に録画予約を行い、その録画予約を用いて、映像記憶部107に番組を録画させることもできるし、また、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に接続している映像記憶部107に直接録画予約を行い、その映像記憶部107に番組を録画させることもできる。そこで、ユーザが、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に録画予約を行う場合と、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約を行う場合とを分けて、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の動作を述べる。
- 【0026】はじめに、ユーザが本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に録画予約を行う場合の録画予約管理装置の動作を説明する。
- 【0027】先ず、番組情報入力部101が、TV放送局からのテレビ信号の垂直帰線消去期間を利用して送信されてくる番組情報を入力し、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103に出力する。
- 【0028】次に、EPG103が、番組情報入力部101からの番組情報を番組情報記憶部102 に出力し、番組情報記憶部102が、その番組情報を入力して記憶する。
- 【0029】その後、EPG103が、表示制御部104に、番組情報記憶部102に記憶されている番組情報をモニタ等に表示させる。
- 【0030】このように番組情報がモニタ等に表示されると、ユーザは、表示された番組情報のうちの録画したい番組を、リモコン等を用いてEPG103に指示する。
- 【0031】そして、EPG103が、ユーザに指示された番組の番組情報を番組情報記憶部102から入力し、番組予約情報として予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051に出力して、予約情報記憶部106が、予約情報管理部105からの番組予約情報を記憶する。これで、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置は、その装置にされた録画予約を行ったことになる。

【0032】次に、ユーザが映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約を行う場合の本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の動作を説明する。

【0033】映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約が行われると、映像記憶部107は、 予約情報管理部105に録画予約が行なわれたことを通知し、番組予約情報を予約情報管理部105 に出力する。なお、映像記憶部107は、録画予約された番組予約情報を自身でも記憶する。

【0034】そして、予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051が、映像記憶部107としてのVTRから番組予約情報を入力する。ところで、映像記憶部107からの番組予約情報には、チャンネル、日付、録画開始時間、録画終了時間、録画モード(標準/3倍)等は含まれているが、番組名等の情報は含まれていない。そこで、予約情報管理部105は、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103に対して、入力した番組予約情報の番組の番組情報を検索させ、映像記憶部107からの番組予約情報にEPG103から得た番組情報を付加して、予約情報記憶部106に記憶させる。これで、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置は、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約されたものを予約したことになる。

【0035】図4に、予約情報記憶部106が記憶する番組予約情報の例を示す。番組予約情報は、予約番号、日付、チャンネル、録画開始時間、録画終了時間、番組名などで構成される。なお、予約番号は、番組開始時刻の早いものから割り振りされる。また、番組予約情報には、録画状況も含まれ、予約情報記憶部106は、ユーザが予約した番組の録画状況を管理する。その録画状況とは、録画予約された番組について、未録画、録画中、録画済またはエラーという4つのいずれかの状況を示すものであり、未録画、録画中、録画済、エラーそれぞれに対して、未、録画中、済、エラーそれぞれが表示される。そのエラーとは、何らかの理由で録画することができなかったことを示し、エラーの場合には、その理由も同時に管理される。そのエラーの理由の一例として、ビデオテープ未挿入や、残量なしというようなものがある。また、ユーザからの要求により、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103は、予約情報管理部105に、予約情報記憶部106に管理されている予約状況を、表示制御部104に対して、モニタ等に表示させるように指示する。

【0036】ここまでは、ユーザが、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に録画予約を行う場合と、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに録画予約を行う場合とを分けて、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の動作を述べてきた。

【0037】次に、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の予約情報管理部105が、録画予約管理装置のEPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103を介して、または、映像記憶部107としてのVTRを介して、一つまたは複数の録画予約をした後の、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の動作を述べる。この場合、予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051がEPG103から番組予約情報を入力するまでの録画予約管理装置の動作、および、予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051が映像記憶部107から番組予約情報を入力するまでの録画予約管理装置の動作は、上述したところと重複するので、説明を省略する。

【0038】したがって、以下では、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051が、EPG103または映像記憶部107から番組予約情報を入力した後の録画予約管理装置の動作、つまり、予約情報管理部105の動作を述べる。ここで、図5に、予約情報管理部105の動作のフローチャートを示す。なお、以下の文章中の括弧内の数字は、図5に示したフローチャートのステップである。

【0039】先ず、予約情報管理部105の入力手段1051は、EPG103または映像記憶部1

. 07から番組予約情報を入力する(501)。

【0040】そして、予約情報管理部105の比較手段1052は、EPG103または映像記憶部107から入力した番組予約情報と、既に、予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報とを、それぞれの番組予約情報の番組開始時間、番組終了時間について比較し、時間的に重複するか否かを判断する(502)。重複があった場合、予約情報管理部105は、ステップ503へ進み、それに対して、重複がなかった場合、予約情報管理部105は、ステップ508へ進み、予約情報管理部105の制御手段1053は、入力した番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部106に記憶させる(508)。

【0041】さて、予約情報管理部105がステップ503へ進んだ場合、予約情報管理部105は、 入力した番組予約情報と、既に、予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報の重複してい る状況を、表示制御部104に対してモニタ等に表示させる(503)。

【0042】次に、ユーザが、モニタ等に表示される番組予約情報の重複状況を確認して、リモコン等を用いて、既に予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報、または、入力した番組予約情報のうちいずれか一方を削除する(504)。予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報を削除するとの指示を受けた場合、予約情報管理部105の制御手段1053は、ステップ505へ進み、予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報を削除(505)し、入力した番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部106に記憶させる(508)。それに対して、入力した番組予約情報を削除するとの指示を受けた場合、予約情報管理部105は、ステップ506へ進む。

【0043】予約情報管理部105がステップ506へ進んだ場合、予約情報管理部105は、入力した番組予約情報がEPG103からのものか、映像記憶部107からのものかを判断する(506)。予約情報管理部105が入力した番組予約情報が入力した番組予約情報がEPG103からのものであれば、予約情報管理部105は、動作を終了する。それに対し、予約情報管理部105が入力した番組予約情報が映像記憶部107からのものであれば、予約情報管理部105は、ステップ507に進み、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに予約され、記憶されている番組予約情報を削除するように、映像記憶部107としてのVTRを制御する。

【0044】以上説明したように、予約情報記憶部106は、時間的に重複がないようにして、番組予約情報を記憶する。予約情報管理部105は、予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報に基づいて、録画開始時間の例えば5秒前に、録画開始コマンドを映像記憶部107としてのVTRに出力し、映像記憶部107は、予約情報管理部105からの指示に基づいて録画を開始する。同様にして、予約情報管理部105は、番組予約情報に基づいて、録画終了時間の例えば5秒前に、録画終了コマンドを映像記憶部107としてのVTRに出力し、映像記憶部107は、予約情報管理部105からの指示に基づいて録画を終了する。

【0045】ところで、現在のVTRでは、最大でも例えば8件までしか録画予約することができない。しかしながら、上述したように、番組予約情報は、実質上最終的には、予約情報記憶部106にしか記憶されないので、予約情報記憶部106に登録することが可能な数まで、ユーザは、番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部106に登録することができる。したがって、番組予約情報の数は、映像記憶部107としてのVTRの予約可能件数に依存しない。

【0046】なお、予約情報管理部105は、ユーザから指示があれば、予約情報記憶部106に記憶されている予約状況を、表示制御部104に対してモニタ等に表示させることができる。その予約状況は、ジャンル毎、日付毎などの表示が可能である。

- 、【0047】また、番組情報入力部101が入力する番組情報は、TV放送局から一日に数回送信されてくることもあり、スポーツ中継の延長によって放送時間が変更された情報も含む。このように、放送時間に変更が生じた場合、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)103は、番組情報入力部101からの番組情報に基づいて、番組情報記憶部102の番組情報の変更を行い、予約情報管理部105に放送時間の変更があった番組を伝える。予約情報管理部105は、放送時間が変更された番組が映像記憶部106に記憶されているかどうかを調べ、記憶されている場合、映像記憶部106に記憶されている番組予約情報の録画開始時間、終了時間の変更を行う。このように、番組情報入力部101が番組情報を一日に数回入力することにより、番組の放送時間の変更に対応することができる。
 - 【0048】また、実施の形態1では、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約が行われると、映像記憶部107は、予約情報管理部105に番組予約情報を出力するとともに、その番組予約情報を記憶するとしたが、映像記憶部107は、自身に直接録画予約が行われると、予約情報管理部105に番組予約情報を出力するのみで、その出力した番組予約情報を記憶しないとしてもよい。つまり、予約情報管理部105は、映像記憶部107としてのVTRに直接録画予約が行われると、その番組予約情報を移動させるとしてもよい。
 - 【0049】さらに、実施の形態1では、番組情報入力部101は、TV放送局からのテレビ信号の垂直帰線消去期間を利用して送信されてくる番組情報を入力するとしたが、番組情報入力部101は、FM多重放送や公衆回線網を利用して送信されてくる番組情報を入力するとしてもよい。また、番組情報入力部101は、数週間単位の番組情報を記憶したフロッピィディスク、メモリカード、CD-ROM等の記憶媒体からの番組情報を入力するとしてもよいし、ページャ基地局から送信されてくる番組情報を入力するとしてもよい。
 - 【0050】(実施の形態2)本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置の構成をその動作とともに述べる。
 - 【0051】図2に、本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置のブロック図を示す。
 - 【0052】本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置は、本発明の実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置の各構成手段と同様な構成手段から構成される。すなわち、本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置は、番組情報入力部201と、番組情報記憶部202と、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)203と、表示制御部204と、予約情報管理部205と、予約情報記憶部206から構成される。なお、予約情報管理部205は、図9に示すように、入力手段2051と、比較手段2052と、制御手段2053とを有している。また、図2の207および208は、本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置と接続している映像記憶部である。
 - 【0053】実施の形態2では、映像記憶部207および208いずれもが、VTRである場合を例にとって説明する。
 - 【0054】実施の形態2と実施の形態1との相違は、映像記憶部の数である。すなわち、実施の形態1の録画予約管理装置に接続している映像記憶部の数が1であったのに対し、実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置に接続している映像記憶部の数が2であるということである。
 - 【0055】したがって、実施の形態2では、本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置の予約情報管理部205の入力手段2051が、EPG203、映像記憶部207または208から番組予約情報を入力した後の録画予約管理装置の動作、すなわち、予約情報管理部205の動作を述べる。なお、ユーザが録画予約管理装置に録画予約を行う場合と、映像記憶部207または208に直接録画予約を行う場合の録画予約管理装置の動作については、実施の形態1で説明したものと同じなので、説明

。を省略する。

【0056】ここで、図6に、予約情報管理部205の動作のフローチャートを示す。なお、以下の文章中の括弧内の数字は、図6に示したフローチャートのステップである。

【0057】先ず、予約情報管理部205の入力手段2051は、EPG203、映像記憶部207 または208から番組予約情報を入力する(601)。なお、以下の説明を簡単にするために、予約 情報管理部205は、EPG203または映像記憶部207から番組予約情報を入力するものとする。 【0058】そして、予約情報管理部205の比較手段2052は、EPG203または映像記憶部 207から入力した番組予約情報と、既に予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報とを、 それぞれの番組予約情報の番組開始時間、番組終了時間について比較し、時間的に重複するか否かを 判断する(602)。重複があった場合、予約情報管理部205は、ステップ603へ進み、それに 対して、重複がなかった場合、予約情報管理部205は、ステップ608へ進み、予約情報管理部2 05の制御手段2053は、入力した番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部206に記憶させる(608)。 【0059】さて、予約情報管理部205がステップ603へ進んだ場合、予約情報管理部205の 制御手段2053は、予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている、映像記憶部208の番組予約情報と 入力した番組予約情報とを比較し、入力した番組予約情報の録画時間に、映像記憶部208が番組を 録画することができる余裕があるか否かを判断する(603)。余裕がある場合、予約情報管理部2 05は、ステップ604へ進み、入力した番組予約情報内に含まれる番組を、映像記憶部208に録 画させるように、入力した番組予約情報を割り振り(604)、その番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部 206に記憶させる(608)。それに対し、予約情報管理部205に入力された番組予約情報の録 画時間に、映像記憶部208が番組を録画する余裕がない場合、予約情報管理部205は、ステップ 605〜進み、入力した番組予約情報と、既に予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報 の重複している状況を、表示制御部204に対してモニタ等に表示させる(605)。

【0060】次に、ユーザが、モニタ等に表示されている番組予約情報の重複状況を確認して、リモコン等を用いて、入力した番組予約情報、または、予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報のうちいずれか一方を削除する(606)。入力した番組予約情報を削除するとの指示を受けた場合、予約情報管理部205は、ステップ609へ進み、入力した番組予約情報を削除し(609)、動作を終了する。入力した番組予約情報は削除しないとの指示を受けた場合、予約情報管理部205は、ステップ607へ進み、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、入力した番組予約情報を映像記憶部207または208のいずれか一方に録画させるような情報を、予約情報記憶部206に、上述した一方の映像記憶部に、予約情報管理部205が入力した番組予約情報の番組を録画させるように、既に予約されていた、その映像記憶部に録画させる指示を有する番組予約情報の番組をように、既に予約されていた、その映像記憶部に録画させる指示を有する番組予約情報の番組を、上述した一方の映像記憶部に録画させるように、入力した番組予約情報の番組を、上述した一方の映像記憶部に録画させるように、入力した番組予約情報を予約情報の番組を、上述した一方の映像記憶部に録画させるように、入力した番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部206に記憶させる(608)。

【0061】なお、実施の形態2では、説明のために、予約情報管理部205は、EPG203または映像記憶部207から番組予約情報を入力するものとしたが、予約情報管理部205は、映像記憶部208からの番組予約情報を入力することも可能である。その場合、予約情報管理部205は、映像記憶部208からの番組予約情報を、上述した、映像記憶部207からの番組予約情報を扱ったときと同様に扱う。

.【0062】また、予約情報記憶部206が記憶している番組予約情報の予約番号は、番組予約情報 が複数ある場合、映像記憶部207または208毎に、番組開始時刻の早いものから割り振りされる。

【0063】また、予約情報管理部205が新たに入力した番組予約情報に、その番組予約情報の番組を、指定された映像記憶部に録画するように指定する情報が含まれている場合、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、新たに入力した番組予約情報に基づいて、その番組予約情報の番組を、指定された映像記憶部に録画させる。さらに、その指定された映像記憶部に録画させる番組の番組予約情報を、既に予約情報記憶部206が記憶しておれば、指定されなかった映像記憶部がその番組の録画時間に、番組を録画することができる余裕があれば、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、指定されなかった映像記憶部にその番組を録画させるように、予約情報記憶部206に、番組予約情報を変更させる。

【0064】また、予約情報記憶部206に既に記憶されている番組予約情報に、その番組予約情報の番組を、指定された映像記憶部に録画するように指定する情報が含まれてある場合、予約情報管理部205が新たに入力した番組予約情報の番組を、指定されなかった映像記憶部がその番組の録画時間に、番組を録画することができる余裕があれば、その指定されなかった映像記憶部にその番組を録画させるように、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、新たに入力した番組予約情報を変更させる。

【0065】また、時間帯が重複している2つの番組予約情報のいずれもが、特定の映像記憶部を指定して重なっている場合、予約情報管理部205は、表示制御部204を用いて、その重複状況をユーザに通知し、指示に従う。

【0066】(実施の形態3)本発明の実施の形態3の録画予約管理装置の構成をその動作とともに述べる。

【0067】実施の形態3と実施の形態2との相違は、映像記憶部207としてのVTRが優先的に「音楽」のジャンルの番組を予約録画するように登録されているというところである。したがって、実施の形態3では、映像記憶部207がジャンル登録されている場合の録画予約管理装置の動作、すなわち、予約情報管理部205の動作のみを述べる。

【0068】予約情報管理部205の入力手段2051は、番組予約情報を入力し、比較手段2052は、その番組予約情報のジャンルを調べ、そのジャンルが「音楽」である場合、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、入力した番組予約情報の番組が映像記憶部207に予約録画されるように、その番組予約情報を予約情報記憶部206に記憶させる。

【0069】ところで、予約情報管理部205が入力した番組予約情報が、既に予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報と時間的に重複がある場合、つまり、予約情報管理部205が入力した番組予約情報の番組の時間帯に、映像記憶部207に別の番組を予約録画させるような番組予約情報を、予約情報記憶部206が記憶してある場合、予約情報管理部205の制御手段2053は、上述した、既に予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報の番組を、映像記憶部208に録画予約させるように番組予約情報の変更を行う。ただし、上述した、予約情報記憶部206に記憶されている番組予約情報の番組のジャンルも「音楽」である場合は、ユーザの指示に従う。

【0070】なお、実施の形態3では、映像記憶部207に「音楽」ジャンルが登録されている場合について説明したが、映像記憶部208に「音楽」ジャンルが登録されている場合についても、録画予約管理装置の動作、すなわち、予約情報管理部205の動作は上述した動作と同等な動作を行う。

【0071】また、実施の形態3では、映像記憶部207に「音楽」ジャンルが登録されている場合

. について説明したが、映像記憶部207または208としてのVTRに「音楽」ジャンル以外のジャンル、例えば「映画」や「ニュース」といったジャンルが登録されているとしてもよい。この場合についても、録画予約管理装置の動作、すなわち、予約情報管理部205の動作は上述した動作と同等な動作を行う。

- 【0072】上述したように、VTRへのジャンル登録は、ユーザがある特定のジャンルの番組を特定のVTRで録画したい場合に便利である。また、2台のVTRを接続している場合、1台のVTRはニュース、朝、昼の連続ドラマなどの毎日録画する番組用にしてビデオテープを常に設定し、もう1台のVTRは不定期に録画する番組の録画専用というように、VTRを使い分けることも可能である。
- 【0073】(実施の形態4)本発明の実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置の構成をその動作とともに述べる。
- 【0074】図3に、本発明の実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置のブロック図を示す。
- 【0075】本発明の実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置は、本発明の実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置の各構成手段と同様な構成手段から構成される。すなわち、本発明の実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置は、番組情報入力部301と、番組情報記憶部302と、EPG(電子番組情報ガイド)303と、表示制御部304と、予約情報管理部305と、予約情報記憶部306と、電源管理部307から構成される。なお、図3の308および309は、本発明の実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置と接続している映像記憶部である。
- 【0076】実施の形態4では、映像記憶部308および309いずれもが、VTRである場合を例にとって説明する。
- 【0077】実施の形態4と実施の形態2との相違は、実施の形態2の録画予約管理装置が電源管理部を備えていなかったのに対し、実施の形態4の録画予約管理装置が電源管理部307を備えているとう点である。したがって、実施の形態4では、電源管理部307に関する録画予約管理装置の動作のみ説明する。
- 【0078】予約情報管理部305は、予約情報記憶部306に記憶されている番組予約情報の中で、現在時刻に一番近い録画開始時間を持つ番組予約情報を取り出す。そして、取り出した番組予約情報が映像記憶部308で録画させる情報である場合、予約情報管理部305は、録画予約開始時刻のN秒前になった時点で、電源管理部307に対して、映像記憶部308の電源をオンにするよう指示する。電源管理部307は、予約情報管理部305の指示に従って、映像記憶部308の電源をオンにする。
- 【0079】その後、予約情報管理部305は、録画終了時刻のN秒後になった時点で、電源管理部307に、映像記憶部308の電源をオフにするよう指示する。電源管理部307は、予約情報管理部305の指示に従って、映像記憶部308の電源をオフにする。
- 【0080】同様に、予約情報管理部305が予約情報記憶部306から取り出した番組予約情報が映像記憶部309で録画させる情報である場合、予約情報管理部305は、上述したようにして、映像記憶部309で録画させるように動作する。
- 【0081】なお、ユーザが映像記憶部308または309を直接操作したい場合、ユーザは、電源管理部307を使って、映像記憶部308または309の電源のオン/オフを行う。
- 【0082】また、映像記憶部308または309の電源をオフにした場合、次に使用する際に、それぞれの映像記憶部に対してタイマーの設定を行う必要があるが、それぞれの映像記憶部の電源がオ

ンになった時点で、それぞれの映像記憶部は予約情報管理部305にタイマー設定要求を出し、予約情報管理部305がそれぞれの映像記憶部に対してタイマー設定を行う。

【0083】さらに、実施の形態4では、録画予約管理装置には、2つの映像記憶部が接続されているとしたが、実施の形態1と同様に、本発明の録画予約管理装置は、1つのみの映像記憶部を接続していて、かつ、電源管理部307を備えているとしてもよい。この場合も、本発明の録画予約管理装置は、上述したように、映像記憶部としてのVTRの電源のオン/オフを行うとしてもよい。

【0084】なお、本発明では、予約用メモリとして予約情報記憶部106、206および306、情報表示手段として表示制御部104、204および304、電源管理手段として電源管理部307、番組情報入力手段として番組情報入力部101、201および301を用いた。

【0085】また、以上述べた実施の形態1から4では、映像記憶部は、VTRであるとしたが、映像記憶部は、AVHDなどの記憶媒体であってもよい。

【0086】また、実施の形態1から3では、予約情報管理部105または205が入力した番組予約情報と、既に予約情報記憶部106または206に記憶されている番組予約情報とが重複する場合、ユーザが、予約情報管理部105または205が入力した番組予約情報と、既に予約情報記憶部106または206に記憶されている番組予約情報のうちいずれか一方を削除するとしたが、例えば、予約情報管理部105または205が後で入力した番組予約情報を優先させるように、既に予約情報記憶部106または206に記憶されている番組予約情報が自動的に削除されるとしてもよい。このように、あらかじめ決められたルールによって、予約情報管理部105または205が入力した番組予約情報、または、既に予約情報記憶部106または206に記憶されている番組予約情報のうちいずれか一方が削除されるとしてもよい。

【0087】また、上述した実施の形態では、録画予約管理装置の予約情報管理部が映像記憶部の番組予約情報と録画予約管理装置本体に対する番組予約情報とを比較する場合、あらかじめ一方の番組予約情報を入力して記憶し、その記憶した番組予約情報と新たに入力する番組予約情報とを比較するとした。しかしながら、録画予約管理装置の予約情報管理部は、一つまたは複数の映像記憶部の番組予約情報と録画予約管理装置本体に対する番組予約情報とを、同時または時間的に間隔をおいて入力し、例えば所定の時間間隔毎に、それら複数の番組予約情を比較するとしてもよい。または、全ての番組予約情報について、その番組予約情報の番組の開始直前に、複数の番組予約情を比較するとしてもよい。

【0088】さらに、実施の形態2から4では、それぞれの録画予約管理装置には、2つの映像記憶部が接続されているとしたが、本発明の録画予約管理装置は、3つ以上の映像記憶部が接続されていてもよく、その場合についても、本発明の録画予約管理装置は、2つの映像記憶部が接続されている場合と同様な動作を行う。

[0089]

【発明の効果】以上説明したところから明らかなように、本発明は、録画予約管理装置本体に入力された予約情報と、VTRに直接予約された予約情報を一括管理する録画予約管理装置を提供することができる。

【0090】また、本発明は、特定のジャンルの番組を録画するVTRに、そのジャンルの番組を予約録画させる場合、その都度、ユーザからの指示を受け付けることなく、特定のジャンルの番組を特定のVTRに、優先的に録画予約させる録画予約管理装置を提供することができる。

【0091】また、本発明は、必要な時にだけVTRに電源を入れる録画予約管理装置を提供するこ

(The range of a bibliography + summary + claim)

(19) — a [issue country] Japanese Patent Office (JP) (12) [official report classification] public presentation patent journal (A) and (11) — [open number] Provisional-Publication-No. 11-136615 (43) [open day] May 21, Heisei 11 (1999) [name of invention] recording reservation — management — equipment — (51) [the 6th edition of International Patent Classification] [(54)] HO4N 5/7826

G11B 15/02 328

[FI] HO4N 5/782

Z

G11B 15/02 328 S

[a request for examination] -- a non-asked [number of claims] 22[application form] 0L[total number of pages] 13 (21) [application number] Japanese-Patent-Application-No. 9-301257 (22) [filing date of application] 0ctober 31, Heisei 9 (1997) [identification number] 000005821[name [(71 [applicant])]

or name] Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. [address or address] 1006, Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka (72) [inventor] [name] Onishi Rumi [address or address] 1006, Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka (72) in Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. [inventor] [name] Gotou

(74) in Shoichi [address or address] 1006, Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. [representative] [patent attorney] [name or name] Matsuda Right path

[A summary] (57) — the recording reservation management equipment of the [subject] former had the subject that package management of the reservation information inputted into the main part of recording reservation management equipment and the reservation information directly reserved by VTR had not been carried out.

[Solution means] The program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department inputted and (501) inputted program reservation information from VTR as EPG (electronic program information guide) or the image memory section is compared with the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation

information storage section, and it is judged whether the program of these two program reservation information overlaps in time (502).

When there is duplication, the duplication situation is displayed on a user (503), and the reservation Research and Data Processing Department deletes one program reservation information (504-507), and makes the reservation information storage section memorize the program reservation information on another side according to directions of a user (508). When there is no duplication, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department makes the reservation information storage section memorize the program reservation information that it inputted (508).

[Claim] An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment that it has the [Claim 1] recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

The rule beforehand decided when the reservation information on both a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above overlapped,

Or the reservation information to which priority is given is determined according to directions of the operator of the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment.

Recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides when it controls based on the determination not to harness the reservation information that priority is not given and the reservation information on both above does not overlap.

[Claim 2] It has the memory for reservation which stores predetermined reservation information. The above-mentioned comparison means

Storing in the above-mentioned memory for reservation the reservation information newly inputted into the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment is not continued,

It is inputted previously and compares with the reservation information stored in the above-mentioned memory for reservation. The above-mentioned control means the above — the case where the newly inputted reservation information has priority — the above, while storing the newly inputted reservation information in the above-mentioned memory for reservation

It controls so that the stored reservation information is deleted and the reservation information stored [above-mentioned] does not have priority.

the above — the reservation information stored in the above-mentioned memory for reservation when the newly inputted reservation information did not have priority — as it is — storing — the above — the recording reservation management equipment of the claim

1 publication characterized by controlling so that the newly inputted reservation information does not have priority.

[Claim 3] The recording reservation management equipment of the claim 1 publication have the memory for reservation which stores the reservation information from the above-mentioned image recording equipment, and the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment, and carry out that delete the reservation information to which priority is not given from the above-mentioned memory for reservation, and it also deletes when it is the reservation information by the side of the above-mentioned image recording equipment with the feature.

[Claim 4] It is recording reservation management equipment of the publication by either of Claims 1-3 carry out that the reservation information on recording reservation management equipment means the case overlap with the reservation information in all above-mentioned pieces of the image recording equipment, in the above-mentioned duplication with the feature when the above-mentioned image recording equipment is plurality and recording reservation of all above-mentioned pieces of the image recording equipment and recording reservation management equipment does not choose specific image recording equipment. [Claim 5] The above-mentioned image recording equipment is recording reservation management equipment of the publication by either of Claims 1-3 carry out that the reservation information on recording reservation management equipment means the case overlap with the reservation information on the above-mentioned selected image recording equipment, in the above-mentioned duplication with the feature when it is plurality and recording reservation of all above-mentioned pieces of the image recording equipment and recording reservation management equipment chooses specific image recording equipment. [Claim 6] Above-mentioned image recording equipment is recording reservation management equipment of the publication by either of Claims 1-3 carry out that the above-mentioned duplication means the case overlap with the reservation information on the image recording equipment of the above-mentioned specification [the reservation information on recording reservation management equipment] with the feature when it is plurality and it chooses the image recording equipment of the above-mentioned specification [recording reservation of the specific image recording equipment of two or more above-mentioned image recording equipment, and recording reservation management equipment].

[Claim 7] The above-mentioned image recording equipment is plurality, and only recording reservation of recording reservation management equipment chooses specific image recording equipment.

When no recording reservation of the above-mentioned image recording equipment chooses specific image recording equipment, with the above-mentioned duplication Recording reservation management equipment given in either of Claims 1-3 characterized by the reservation information on the image recording equipment which recording reservation management equipment chose meaning the case where it overlaps with the reservation

information on the image recording equipment, and the reservation information overlaps with the reservation information on all other pieces of image recording equipment.

[Claim 8] The above-mentioned image recording equipment is plurality, and recording reservation of all above-mentioned pieces of the image recording equipment chooses the image recording equipment of the recording reservation, respectively.

Recording reservation management equipment of the publication by either of Claims 1-3 characterized by the above-mentioned duplication meaning the case where the reservation information on recording reservation management equipment overlaps with the reservation information on all above-mentioned pieces of the image recording equipment when recording reservation of recording reservation management equipment does not choose specific image recording equipment.

[Claim 9] It is recording reservation management equipment of the claim 1 publication characterized by the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment moving the reservation information automatically when reservation information is set as the above-mentioned image recording equipment.

[Claim 10] It is recording reservation management equipment of the claim 1 publication characterized by to delete either the reservation information which the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment copied the reservation information automatically, and was set as the above-mentioned image recording equipment, or the copied reservation information when reservation information is set as the above-mentioned image recording equipment.

[Claim 11] The predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre is included.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Determine the reservation information to which priority is given, it is based on the determination, and the reservation information that priority is not given is discarded or deleted.

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which controlled to harness reservation information and the above-mentioned input means inputted is not reservation information on which the

program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[Claim 12] The predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre is included.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

The reservation information to which priority is given is determined and it is based on the determination. The reservation information that priority is not given Moved to other above—mentioned image recording equipment which does not overlap the reservation information, and the above—mentioned input means inputted.

Recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides when the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment is not reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment.

[Claim 13] The predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre is included.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Determine the reservation information to which priority is given, and after moving the reservation information that priority is not given, based on the determination to other above-mentioned image recording equipment which overlaps the reservation information, the reservation information that above-mentioned priority is not given is compared.

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Choose one reservation information and it controls to harness the reservation information which chose [above-mentioned] based on the selection.

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which the above-mentioned input means inputted is not reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[Claim 14] Recording reservation management equipment given in either of Claims 1-13 characterized by to receive the directions which are equipped with an information display means display these two reservation information, and choose one side of the two abovementioned reservation information using the information display means from the operator of the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment when two reservation information overlaps.

[Claim 15] Recording reservation management equipment given in either of Claims 1-14 characterized by having the power supply management tool which switches ON and OFF of the power supply of the above-mentioned image recording equipment.

[Claim 16] Recording reservation management equipment given in either of Claims 1-15 characterized by having a program information input means to input program information, and seasoning the above-mentioned reservation information with the above-mentioned program information.

[Claim 17] The above-mentioned program information is recording reservation management equipment of the claim 16 publication characterized by having the information on change of the time zone of the program of the above-mentioned reservation information, and changing the contents of the above-mentioned reservation information according to change of the time zone.

[Claim 18] The above-mentioned program information is Claim 16 characterized by being the information transmitted using the vertical blanking interval of the TV signal from a broadcasting station, or recording reservation management equipment of 17 publications. [Claim 19] The above-mentioned program information is Claim 16 characterized by being the information transmitted using the FM multiplex broadcast from a broadcasting station, or recording reservation management equipment of 17 publications.

[Claim 20] The above-mentioned program information is Claim 16 characterized by being the information transmitted using the public line from a broadcasting station, or recording reservation management equipment of 17 publications.

[Claim 21] The above-mentioned program information is Claim 16 characterized by being the information from a storage medium that program information is memorized beforehand, or recording reservation management equipment of 17 publications.

[Claim 22] The above-mentioned program information is Claim 16 characterized by being the information transmitted from a pager base station, or recording reservation management equipment of 17 publications.

Detailed explanation

[Detailed explanation of invention] [0001] [technical field to which invention belongs] book invention relates to the recording reservation management equipment which manages the reservation information at the time of image recording equipment recording the TV program from a television-broadcasting office by recording reservation.

[0002] From the [conventional technical] former, with VTR, in order to record a program to watch, even if a user does not perform recording operation at the start time of a program, it can record by making timer reservation.

Timer reservation sets up the time of a program to record, a channel, start time, finish time, recording mode, etc., and is performed by making VTR into timer reservation mode. Timer reservation can be made with the recording reservation management equipment linked to the VTR, and VTR can also be made to make recording reservation in [0003] and time based on the directions from the recording reservation management equipment besides reserving directly on VTR.

[0004] Explain the composition of such conventional recording reservation management equipment with reference to Fig. 7 with the operation.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of conventional recording reservation management equipment. [0005] The program information input section 701 outputs reservation information to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 702 first.

The reservation information is inputted into the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 702, and is memorized by the reservation information storage section 703. When the inputted reservation information and the reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 703 have duplication in time at this time, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 703 notifies a user of that, and deletes one reservation information according to directions of a user. [0006] The reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 703 is outputted to the signal transmitting section 705, and the signal transmitting section 705 generates the signal of the purport make VTR make the timed

recording of, outputs it to VTR, and makes VTR make the timed recording of it through the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 702 after that.

[0007] In addition, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 702 displays the reservation information memorized by the reservation information display section 704 at the reservation information storage section 703 according to directions of a user. [0008] Moreover, the reservation information which two or more sets of VTRs are connected to recording reservation management equipment, and was inputted into the reservation information storage section 703,

If it is in a situation with either able to make timed recording of two or more VTRs when the reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 703 has duplication in time, reservation information will be memorized with making either of two or more VTRs make suitably the timed recording of the reservation information storage section 703.

[0009] [Object of the Invention], however the conventional recording reservation management equipment mentioned above have not managed the reservation information directly reserved by VTR.

Although recording reservation management equipment is convenient, among the users familiar to making recording reservation to direct VTR, it considers that the starting work of equipment and time to wait for starting are troublesome, and thinks [that it may choose reserving on direct VTR and].

In addition, when performing recording reservation using EPG (electronic program information guide) etc., since program information is announced by per two weeks, the problem that previous recording reservation cannot be made from two weeks usually produces it.

When VTR in which the recording reservation for 1 month is possible also wants to perform previous recording reservation from two weeks for which reason absent over a long period of time for a certain reason, it will reserve on direct VTR.

[0010] The reservation information directly reserved by VTR when the reservation information directly reserved by VTR in this case and the reservation information already registered into recording reservation management equipment overlap in time.

When the reservation information newly inputted into recording reservation management equipment overlaps in time, since especially VTR records by giving priority to recording reservation information with earlier recording start time, without notifying a user, the problem that a program to watch cannot be recorded produces it.

[0011] Moreover, when two or more sets of VTRs are connected to recording reservation management equipment, it is possible to use [of the program of a specific genre] one VTR only for recording.

In this case, you have to specify VTR a user makes recording reservation management equipment make the timed recording of whenever it reserves the program of a specific genre.

[0012] Further, the Standby power supply is adopted, and since almost all VTRs are in the state where the main part of VTR is always on, electric power will be considerably used for them.

[0013] This invention aims at providing the recording reservation management equipment carry out package management in the reservation information inputted into the main part of recording reservation management equipment, the reservation information which were inputted into the main part of recording reservation management equipment in consideration of the subject had not carried out package management in the reservation information directly reserved by VTR, and the reservation information which were directly reserved by VTR in such conventional recording reservation management equipment.

This invention [0014] Moreover, conventional recording reservation management equipment When making VTR which records the program of a specific genre make the timed recording of the program of the genre,

The subject that specification of VTR must be received from a user is taken into consideration each time.

When making VTR which records the program of a specific genre make the timed recording of the program of the genre,

Each time, it aims at offering the recording reservation management equipment which makes specific VTR make recording reservation of the program of a specific genre preferentially, without receiving the directions from a user.

[0015] Further, in consideration of the subject that the power supply is always turned on, the conventional VTR aims this invention at offering the recording reservation management equipment which puts a power supply into VTR, only when required.

[0016] this invention of [means for solving subject] Claim 1

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

The rule beforehand decided when the reservation information on both a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above overlapped,

Or the reservation information to which priority is given is determined according to directions of the operator of the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment.

When it controls based on the determination not to harness the reservation information that priority is not given and the reservation information on both above does not overlap, it is recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[0017] This invention of Claim 11 contains the predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Determine the reservation information to which priority is given, it is based on the determination, and the reservation information that priority is not given is discarded or deleted.

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which controlled to harness reservation information and the above-mentioned input means inputted is not reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

It is recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[0018] This invention of Claim 12 contains the predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

The reservation information to which priority is given is determined and it is based on the determination. The reservation information that priority is not given Moved to other above-mentioned image recording equipment which does not overlap the reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted.

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment is not reservation information on which the program of

the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment, it is recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[0019] This invention of Claim 13 contains the predetermined image recording equipment which records only the program of a predetermined genre.

An input means to input the reservation information on image recording equipment plurality that it has the recording section and a recording subscription department, and the reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, respectively,

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which a comparison means to compare both reservation information, and the above-mentioned input means inputted is reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Determine the reservation information to which priority is given, and after moving the reservation information that priority is not given, based on the determination to other above-mentioned image recording equipment which overlaps the reservation information; the reservation information that above-mentioned priority is not given is compared.

Directions of the operator of the rule decided beforehand or the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment are followed.

Choose one reservation information and it controls to harness the reservation information which chose [above-mentioned] based on the selection.

When the reservation information over the above-mentioned main part of recording reservation management equipment which the above-mentioned input means inputted is not reservation information on which the program of the above-mentioned predetermined genre is made to record to the above-mentioned predetermined image recording equipment,

It is recording reservation management equipment characterized by having a control means to control to harness the reservation information of these both sides.

[0020] The form of implementation of this invention is explained below to [the form of implementation of invention] with reference to a drawing.

[0021] (form 1 of enforcement) The composition of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of enforcement of this invention is described with the operation.

[0022] The block diagram of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention is shown in Fig. 1.

[0023] The recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention consists of the program information input section 101, the program information storage section 102, EPG (electronic program information guide) 103, the

display control section 104, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105, and the reservation information storage section 106.

In addition, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 has the input means 1051, the comparison means 1052, and the control means 1053, as shown in Fig. 8. Moreover, 107 of Fig. 1 is the image memory section linked to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention.

[0024] With the form 1 of enforcement, the image memory section 107 explains taking the case of the case where it is VTR.

[0025] When a user makes VTR as the image memory section 107 make recording reservation of the program from TV broadcasting station,

Perform recording reservation to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention, and the recording reservation is used. Direct recording reservation can be performed in the image memory section 107 which could also be made to record a program on the image memory section 107, and has been connected to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention, and a program can also be made to record on the image memory section 107. Then, the case where a user performs recording reservation to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention, and the case where direct recording reservation is performed on VTR as the image memory section 107 are divided, and operation of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention is stated.

[0026] Operation of recording reservation management equipment in case a user performs recording reservation to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention first is explained.

[0027] First, the program information input section 101 inputs the program information transmitted using the vertical blanking interval of the TV signal from TV broadcasting station, and outputs to EPG (electronic program information guide) 103.

[0028] Next, EPG103 outputs the program information from the program information input section 101 to the program information storage section 102, and the program information storage section 102 inputs and memorizes the program information.

[0029] EPG103 makes the display control section 104 display after that the program information memorized by the program information storage section 102 on a monitor etc. [0030] If program information is displayed on a monitor etc. in this way, a user directs a program to record of the displayed program information on to EPG103 using remote control etc.

[0031] And EPG103 inputs the program information on the program directed to the user from the program information storage section 102, output to the input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 as program reservation information, and the reservation information storage section 106 memorizes the program reservation information from the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105.

It means that the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention by this had performed recording reservation made the equipment.

[0032] Next, explain operation of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention in case a user performs direct recording reservation on VTR as the image memory section 107.

[0033] If direct recording reservation is performed on VTR as the image memory section 107, the image memory section 107 will notify that recording reservation was performed to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105, and will output program reservation information to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105. In addition, also in person, the image memory section 107 memorizes the program reservation information by which recording reservation was made.

[0034] And the input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputs program reservation information from VTR as the image memory section 107. By the way, although a channel, a date, recording time of onset, recording end time, recording mode (a standard / 3 times), etc. are contained in program reservation information from the image memory section 107, information, such as a program name, is not included.

Then, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 makes the program information on the program of the program reservation information that it inputted retrieve to EPG (electronic program information guide)103, adds the program information acquired from EPG103 from the image memory section 107 to program reservation information, and makes the reservation information storage section 106 memorize.

It means that the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention by this had reserved that by which direct recording reservation was made on VTR as the image memory section 107.

[0035] The example of the program reservation information which the reservation information storage section 106 memorizes is shown in Fig. 4.

Program reservation information consists of a confirmation number, a date, a channel, recording time of onset, recording end time, a program name, etc.

In addition, a confirmation number is assigned from the early thing of program start time. Moreover, a recording situation is also included in program reservation information, and the reservation information storage section 106 manages to it the recording situation of the program which the user reserved.

finishing [the recording situation / program / by which recording reservation was made / recording during un-recording and recording] — or finishing [four ones which is called an error of situations is shown, and / recording] during un-recording and recording — settled and each error are displayed during the sheep and recording to each error. The error shows that it was not able to record for a certain reason, and, in an error, the reason is also managed simultaneously.

. As an example of the reason of the error, there are videotape un-inserting and a thing that he has no residual quantity.

Moreover, it is directed that EPG(electronic program information guide) 103 makes the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 display the reservation status managed by the reservation information storage section 106 on a monitor etc. to the display control section 104 by the demand from a user.

[0036] The case where a user performs recording reservation to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention, and the case where recording reservation was performed on VTR as the image memory section 107 were divided so far, and operation of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention has been stated.

[0037] Next, state operation of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of the implementation of this invention after the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention makes one or more recording reservation through VTR as the image memory section 107 through EPG(electronic program information guide) 103 of recording reservation management equipment.

In this case, since it overlaps with the place mentioned above, operation of recording reservation management equipment until the input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputs program reservation information from EPG103, and operation of recording reservation management equipment until the input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputs program reservation information from the image memory section 107 omit explanation.

[0038] Therefore, below, the input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention describes operation of recording reservation management equipment after inputting program reservation information from EPG103 or the image memory section 107, i.e., operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105.

Here, the flow chart of operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 is shown in Fig. 5.

In addition, the number in the parenthesis in the following texts is the step of a flow chart shown in Fig. 5.

[0039] The input means 1051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputs program reservation information from EPG103 or the image memory section 107 first (501).

[0040] And judge whether the comparison means 1052 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 compares the program reservation information that it inputted from EPG103 or the image memory section 107 with the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 about the program

time of onset of each program reservation information, and program end time, and overlaps in time (502).

When there is duplication, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105

progresses to Step 503, when there is no duplication to it, the reservation Research and

Data Processing Department 105 progresses to Step 508, and the control means 1053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 makes the reservation information storage section 106 memorize the program reservation information that it inputted (508). [0041] Now, when the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 progresses to Step 503, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 makes the situation where the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 overlaps already display it on a monitor etc. as the program reservation information that it inputted, to the display control section 104 (503). [0042] Next, a user checks the duplication situation of the program reservation information displayed on a monitor etc., and deletes either using remote control etc. among the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 or the program reservation information that it inputted (504). When directions that the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 is deleted are received, the control means 1053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 progresses to Step 505, the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 is deleted (505), and the reservation information storage section 106 is made to memorize the program reservation information that it inputted (508).

When directions that the program reservation information that it inputted is deleted to it are received, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 progresses to Step 506.

[0043] When the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 progresses to Step 506, the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputted judges the thing from the thing and the image memory section 107 from EPG103 (506).

If the program reservation information that the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputted inputted is a thing from EPG103, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 will end operation. If the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 inputted to it is a thing from the image memory section 107, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 will progress to Step 507, and will control VTR as the image memory section 107 to be reserved by VTR as the image memory section 107, and to delete the program reservation information memorized.

[0044] As explained above, as the reservation information storage section 106 does not have duplication in time, it memorizes program reservation information.

The reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 outputs a recording start command to VTR as the image memory section 107 for example, 5 seconds before recording time of onset based on the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 106, and the image memory section 107 starts recording based on the directions from the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105. Similarly, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 outputs a recording end command to VTR as the image memory section 107 for example, 5 seconds before recording end time based on program reservation information, and the image memory section 107 ends recording based on the directions from the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105.

In time, recording reservation can be made only to eight affairs at the maximum with the present VTR with [0045].

However, since program reservation information finally is not memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 on substance as mentioned above, a user can register program reservation information into the reservation information storage section 106 to the number which can be registered with the reservation information storage section 106. Therefore, it does not depend for the number of program reservation information on the number of cases of VTR as the image memory section 107 which can be reserved. [0046] In addition, if the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 has directions from a user, it can display on a monitor etc. the reservation status memorized by the reservation information storage section 106 to the display control section 104. The display for every genre and every date is possible for the reservation status. [0047] Moreover, since it is transmitted several times from TV broadcasting station on the first, the program information which the program information input section 101 inputs also includes the information for which broadcasting hours were changed by extension of a sport relay broadcast.

Thus, when change arises in broadcasting hours, based on the program information from the program information input section 101, EPG(electronic program information guide) 103 changes the program information on the program information storage section 102, and tells the program change of broadcasting hours to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 was.

The reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 investigates whether the program in which broadcasting hours were changed is memorized by the image memory section 106, and when memorizing, it makes a change of the recording time of onset of the program reservation information memorized by the image memory section 106, and end time. Thus, when the program information input section 101 will input program information several times on the first, it can respond to change of the broadcasting hours of a program.

[0048] Moreover, when direct recording reservation was performed on VTR as the image memory section 107, although [the form 1 of enforcement / the image memory section 107 /

- While outputting program reservation information to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105,] the program reservation information is memorized When direct recording reservation is performed to self, it is only outputting program reservation information to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105, and though the image memory section 107 does not memorize the outputted program reservation information, it is good.

That is, when direct recording reservation is performed on VTR as the image memory section 107, though the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 moves the program reservation information, it is good.

[0049] With the form 1 of enforcement, although the program information transmitted using the vertical blanking interval of the TV signal from TV broadcasting station is inputted, though the program information input section 101 inputs the program information transmitted using an FM multiplex broadcast or a public line network, it is still better. [of the program information input section 101]

Moreover, the program information input section 101 is good though it inputs the program information from storage media, such as a floppy disk which memorized the program information on a unit several weeks, a memory card, and CD-ROM, and though it inputs the program information transmitted from a pager base station, it is good.

[0050] (form 2 of enforcement) The composition of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of enforcement of this invention is described with the operation. [0051] The block diagram of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention is shown in Fig. 2.

[0052] The recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention consists of each composition means of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of implementation of this invention, and same composition means. That is, the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention consists of the program information input section 201, the program information storage section 202, EPG (electronic program information guide) 203, the display control section 204, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205, and the reservation information storage section 206.

In addition, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 has the input means 2051, the comparison means 2052, and the control means 2053, as shown in Fig. 9. Moreover, 207 and 208 of Fig. 2 are the image memory section linked to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention. [0053] the form 2 of enforcement — the image memory sections 207 and 208 — any — although — explain taking the case of the case where it is VTR.

[0054] The difference with the form 2 of enforcement and the form 1 of enforcement is the number of the image memory sections.

That is, to the number of the image memory sections linked to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 1 of enforcement having been 1, I hear that the number of

the image memory sections linked to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of enforcement is 2, and there is.

[0055] Therefore, with the form 2 of enforcement, the input means 2051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention states operation of recording reservation management equipment after inputting program reservation information from EPG203 and the image memory sections 207 or 208, i.e., operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205.

In addition, about operation of the recording reservation management equipment in the case where a user performs recording reservation to recording reservation management equipment, and the case of performing direct recording reservation in the image memory sections 207 or 208, since it is the same as what was explained with the form 1 of enforcement, explanation is omitted.

[0056] Here, the flow chart of operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 is shown in Fig. 6.

In addition, the number in the parenthesis in the following texts is the step of a flow chart shown in Fig. 6.

[0057] The input means 2051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 inputs program reservation information from EPG203 and the image memory sections 207 or 208 first (601).

In addition, in order to simplify the following explanation, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 shall input program reservation information from EPG203 or the image memory section 207.

[0058] And judge whether the comparison means 2052 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 compares the program reservation information that it inputted from EPG203 or the image memory section 207 with the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 206 about the program time of onset of each program reservation information, and program end time, and overlaps in time (602).

When there is duplication, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 progresses to Step 603, when there is no duplication to it, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 progresses to Step 608, and the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 makes the reservation information storage section 206 memorize the program reservation information that it inputted (608). [0059] Now, when the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 progresses to Step 603, it is judged whether the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 compares the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 206 that the program reservation information on the image memory section 208 was inputted, and it is possible for the image memory section

. 208 to be able to record a program on the recording time of the program reservation information that it inputted (603).

When generous, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 assigns the program reservation information that it inputted (604), and makes the reservation information storage section 206 memorize the program reservation information so that the program included in the program reservation information that it progressed and inputted into Step 604 may be made to record on the image memory section 208 (608).

When it is difficult to it for the image memory section 208 to record a program on the recording time of the program reservation information that it was inputted into the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 makes a monitor etc. display the situation where the program reservation information that it progressed and inputted, and the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 206 overlap on Step 605 to the display control section 204 (605).

[0060] Next, a user checks the duplication situation of the program reservation information currently displayed on the monitor etc., and deletes either using remote control etc. among the program reservation information that it inputted, or the program reservation information information memorized by the reservation information storage section 206 (606).

When directions that the program reservation information that it inputted is deleted are received, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 deletes the program reservation information that it progressed and inputted into Step 609 (609), and ends operation.

When directions that the program reservation information that it inputted is not deleted are received, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 progresses to Step 607, and the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 outputs information which makes the program reservation information that it inputted record on either of the image memory sections 207 or 208 to the reservation information storage section 206 (607).

Then, the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 makes the already reserved program reservation information that it has the directions made to record on the image memory section delete so that the program of the program reservation information that while mentioned above in the reservation information storage section 206, and the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 inputted into it at the image memory section may be made to record (610).

The reservation information storage section 206 is made to memorize the program reservation information that it inputted, finally, so that while might mention above the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 and it may make the program of the program reservation information that it inputted record on the image memory section (608).

. [0061] In addition, although the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 shall input program reservation information from EPG203 or the image memory section 207 with the form 2 of enforcement for explanation, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 can also input the program reservation information from the image memory section 208.

In that case, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 treats like the time of treating the program reservation information from the image memory section 207 which mentioned above the program reservation information from the image memory section 208.

[0062] Moreover, the confirmation number of the program reservation information which the reservation information storage section 206 has memorized is assigned from the early thing of program start time for every [the image memory section 207 or] 208, when there is two or more program reservation information.

[0063] Moreover, when the information specified that it records the program of the program reservation information on the specified image memory section is included in the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 newly inputted, make the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 record on the image memory section specified in the program of the program reservation information based on the program reservation information that it newly inputted.

Furthermore, if the reservation information storage section 206 has already memorized the program reservation information on the program made to record on the specified image memory section

If it is possible for the image memory section which was not specified to be able to record a program on the recording time of the program, the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 will make program reservation information change into the reservation information storage section 206 so that the program may be made to record on the image memory section which was not specified. [0064] To moreover, the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 206

When the information specified that it records the program of the program reservation information on the specified image memory section is included,

If it is possible for the image memory section which was not specified in the program of the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 newly inputted to be able to record a program on the recording time of the program

The control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 makes the program reservation information that it newly inputted change so that the program may be made to record on the image memory section which was not specified.

[0065] moreover, any of two program reservation information that the time zone overlaps — although — when specifying the specific image memory section and having overlapped, using the display control section 204, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 notifies a user of the duplication situation, and follows directions.

[0066] (form 3 of enforcement) The composition of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 3 of enforcement of this invention is described with the operation. [0067] It is just going to say that the difference with the form 3 of enforcement and the form 2 of enforcement is registered so that VTR as the image memory section 207 may make the timed recording of the program of a "musical" genre preferentially.

Therefore, the form 3 of enforcement describes operation of recording reservation management equipment in case genre registration of the image memory section 207 is carried out, i.e., operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205. [0068] The input means 2051 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 inputs program reservation information, and when the genre is "music", the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 makes the reservation information storage section 206 for the comparison means 2052 to investigate the genre of the program reservation information, and memorize the program reservation information so that the timed recording of the program of the program reservation information that it inputted may be made by the image memory section 207.

The program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 inputted [0069] in time

When there is duplication in time with the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage section 206,

In that is, the time zone of the program of the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205 inputted

When the reservation information storage section 206 has memorized the program reservation information that the image memory section 207 is made to make the timed recording of another program, the control means 2053 of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205

Program reservation information is changed so that the image memory section 208 may be made to make recording reservation of the program of the program reservation information which was mentioned above and which has already been memorized by the reservation information storage section 206.

However, directions of a user are followed when the genre of the program of the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 206 mentioned above is also "music."

[0070] Although the form 3 of enforcement, in addition, explained the case where the "music" genre was registered into the image memory section 207, operation of recording reservation management equipment, i.e., operation of the reservation Research and Data

• Processing Department 205, performs operation equivalent to operation mentioned above also with the case where the "music" genre is registered into the image memory section 208. [0071] Moreover, although the form 3 of enforcement explained the case where the "music" genre was registered into the image memory section 207, it is good though a genre called genres, for example, a "movie", and "news" other than a "music" genre is registered into VTR as the image memory sections 207 or 208.

, Y.

In this case, even if it attaches, operation of recording reservation management equipment, i.e., operation of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 205, performs operation equivalent to operation mentioned above.

[0072] As mentioned above, the genre registration to VTR is convenient to record the program of a specific genre with a user with specific VTR.

Moreover, when two sets of VTRs are connected, one set of VTR is made into the programs recorded every day [, such as a serial drama of daytime,] in news and the morning, videotape is always set up, and one more set of VTR can also use VTR properly like only for [of the program recorded irregularly] recording.

[0073] (form 4 of enforcement) The composition of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of enforcement of this invention is described with the operation. [0074] The block diagram of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of implementation of this invention is shown in Fig. 3.

[0075] The recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of implementation of this invention consists of each composition means of the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of implementation of this invention, and same composition means. That is, the recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of implementation of this invention consists of the program information input section 301, the program information storage section 302, EPG (electronic program information guide) 303, the display control section 304, the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305, the reservation information storage section 306, and the power supply Management Department 307.

In addition, 308 and 309 of Fig. 3 are the image memory section linked to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of implementation of this invention. [0076] the form 4 of enforcement — the image memory sections 308 and 309 — any — although — explain taking the case of the case where it is VTR.

[0077] The difference with the form 4 of enforcement and the form 2 of enforcement is う点 when the recording reservation management equipment of the form 4 of enforcement is equipped with the power supply Management Department 307 to the recording reservation management equipment of the form 2 of enforcement not having been equipped with the power supply Management Department.

Therefore, the form 4 of enforcement explains only operation of the recording reservation management equipment about the power supply Management Department 307.

• [0078] The reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 takes out program reservation information with the recording time of onset nearest to the present time in the program reservation information memorized by the reservation information storage section 306.

1 1

And when the taken-out program reservation information is information made to record in the image memory section 308, when the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 becomes N-second before recording reservation start time, it directs to turn ON the power supply of the image memory section 308 to the power supply Management Department 307.

The power supply Management Department 307 turns ON the power supply of the image memory section 308 according to directions of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305.

[0079] After that, when the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 becomes after [of recording finish time] N seconds, it directs to turn OFF the power supply of the image memory section 308 to the power supply Management Department 307. The power supply Management Department 307 turns OFF the power supply of the image memory section 308 according to directions of the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305.

[0080] Similarly, when the program reservation information which the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 took out from the reservation information storage section 306 is information made to record in the image memory section 309, as the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 mentioned above, it operates so that it may be made to record in the image memory section 309.

[0081] In addition, when a user wants to operate the image memory sections 308 or 309 directly, a user performs ON/OFF of the power supply of the image memory sections 308 or 309 using the power supply Management Department 307.

[0082] Moreover, when the power supply of the image memory sections 308 or 309 is turned OFF, in case it is used for the next, it is necessary to set up a timer to each image memory section but, and when the power supply of each image memory section is turned on, each image memory section gives a timer setting demand to the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305, and the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 305 performs a timer setup to each image memory section.

[0083] Further although [the form 4 of enforcement] the two image memory sections are connected to recording reservation management equipment, though the recording reservation management equipment of this invention has connected only the one image memory section and is equipped with the power supply Management Department 307, it is good like the form 1 of enforcement.

Though the recording reservation management equipment of this invention also in this case performs ON/OFF of the power supply of VTR as the image memory section as mentioned above, it is good.

[0084] — in addition — in this invention, the program information input sections 101, 201, and 301 were used as the power supply Management Department 307 and a program information input means as memory for reservation as the display control sections 104, 204, and 304 and a power supply management tool as the reservation information storage sections 106, 206, and 306 and an information display means.

[0085] Moreover, although [the forms 1-4 of the enforcement described above / the image memory section] it is VTR, the image memory sections may be storage media, such as AVHD. [0086] Moreover, with the forms 1-3 of enforcement

When the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 or 205 inputted, and the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage sections 106 or 206 overlap,

Although a user deletes either among the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 or 205 inputted, and the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage sections 106 or 206

For example, it is good, though the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage sections 106 or 206 is automatically deleted so that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 or 205 may give priority to the program reservation information that it inputted later.

Thus, it is good though either is deleted by the rule decided beforehand among the program reservation information that the reservation Research and Data Processing Department 105 or 205 inputted, or the program reservation information already memorized by the reservation information storage sections 106 or 206.

[0087] moreover, the case where the reservation Research and Data Processing Department of recording reservation management equipment compares the program reservation information on the image memory section, and the program reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment at the form of enforcement mentioned above — beforehand, in while, program reservation information was inputted and memorized and it carried out comparing the program reservation information that the memorized program reservation information is newly inputted.

However, though the reservation Research and Data Processing Department of recording reservation management equipment sets an interval simultaneous or in time, and inputs the program reservation information on one or more image memory sections, and the program reservation information over the main part of recording reservation management equipment, for example, compares program 予約情 of these plurality for every predetermined time interval, it is good.

Or about all program reservation information, though two or more program 予約情 are compared just before the start of the program of the program reservation information, it is good.

[0088] Further although [the forms 2-4 of enforcement] the two image memory sections are connected to each recording reservation management equipment, even if the three or more image memory sections may be connected and the recording reservation management equipment of this invention attaches in that case, the recording reservation management equipment of this invention carries out the as same operation as the case where the two image memory sections are connected.

[0089] This invention can offer the recording reservation management equipment which carries out package management of the reservation information inputted into the main part of recording reservation management equipment, and the reservation information directly reserved by VTR so that clearly from the place which beyond the [effect of invention] explained.

[0090] Moreover, this invention can offer the recording reservation management equipment which makes specific VTR make recording reservation of the program of a specific genre preferentially each time, without receiving the directions from a user, when making VTR which records the program of a specific genre make the timed recording of the program of the genre.

[0091] Moreover, this invention can offer the recording reservation management equipment which puts a power supply into VTR, only when required.